

Control designates a feature downstream from the gage that determines the stage-discharge relation at the gage. This feature may be a natural constriction of the channel, a long reach of the channel, or an artificial structure.

Contents is the volume of water in a reservoir. Unless otherwise indicated, volume is computed on the basis of a level pool and does not include bank storage.

The drainage area of a stream at a specified location is that area, measured in a horizontal plane, which is so enclosed by a topographic divide that direct surface runoff from precipitation normally would drain by gravity into the river above the specified point. Figures of drainage area given herein include all closed basins, or noncontributing areas, within the area unless otherwise noted.

WSP is used as an abbreviation for "Water-Supply Paper" in references to previously published reports.

DOWNSTREAM ORDER OF LISTING GAGING STATIONS

Beginning with the series of reports for the water year ending September 30, 1951, the order of listing gaging-station records was changed. In this report, in a downstream direction along the main stem all stations on a tributary entering above a main-stem station are listed before that station. If a tributary enters between two main-stem stations, it is listed between them. A similar order is followed in listing stations on first rank, second rank, and other ranks of tributaries. To indicate the rank of any tributary on which a gaging station is situated and the stream to which it is immediately tributary, each indention in the listing of gaging stations in the table of contents of this report represents one rank. This downstream order and system of indention show which gaging stations are on tributaries between any two stations on a main stem and the rank of the tributary on which each gaging station is situated.

The order of listing used before the publication of the 1951 report listed first all stations on the main stem from headwaters toward mouth, then all stations on the uppermost tributary to the main stem from the tributary's source to mouth, and then all stations from source to mouth of the uppermost tributary to the tributary.

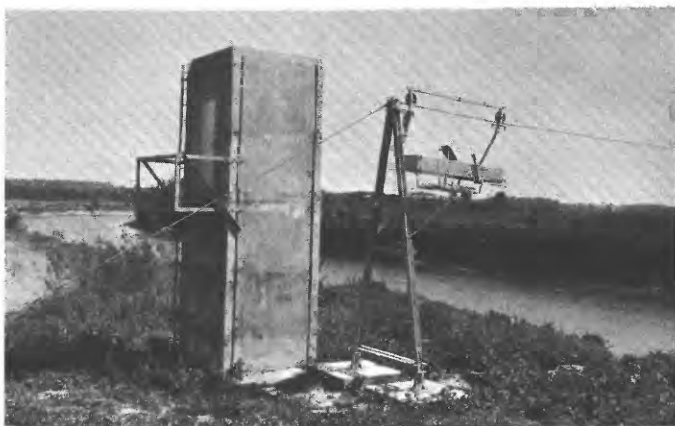
EXPLANATION OF DATA

The base data collected at gaging stations consist of records of stage and measurements of discharge. In addition, observations of factors affecting the stage-discharge relation, weather records, and other information are used to supplement base data in determining the daily flow. The records of stage are obtained either from direct readings on a nonrecording gage or from a water-stage recorder that gives a continuous record of fluctuations. Measurements of discharge are made with a current meter by the general methods adopted by the Geological Survey on the basis of experience in stream gaging since 1888. These methods are described in Water-Supply Paper 888 and are also outlined in standard textbooks on the measurement of stream discharge. Typical structures in use at gaging stations are shown in figure 1.

Rating tables giving the discharge for any stage are prepared from stage-discharge relation curves defined by discharge measurements. If extensions to the rating curves are necessary to define the extremes of discharge, they are made on the basis of indirect determinations of peak discharge (such as slope-area or contracted-opening determinations,



A. South Platte River at South Platte, Colo.



B. Nishnabotna River Above Hamburg, Iowa.



C. Republican River at Trenton, Nebr.

FIGURE 1.—GAGING-STATION STRUCTURES

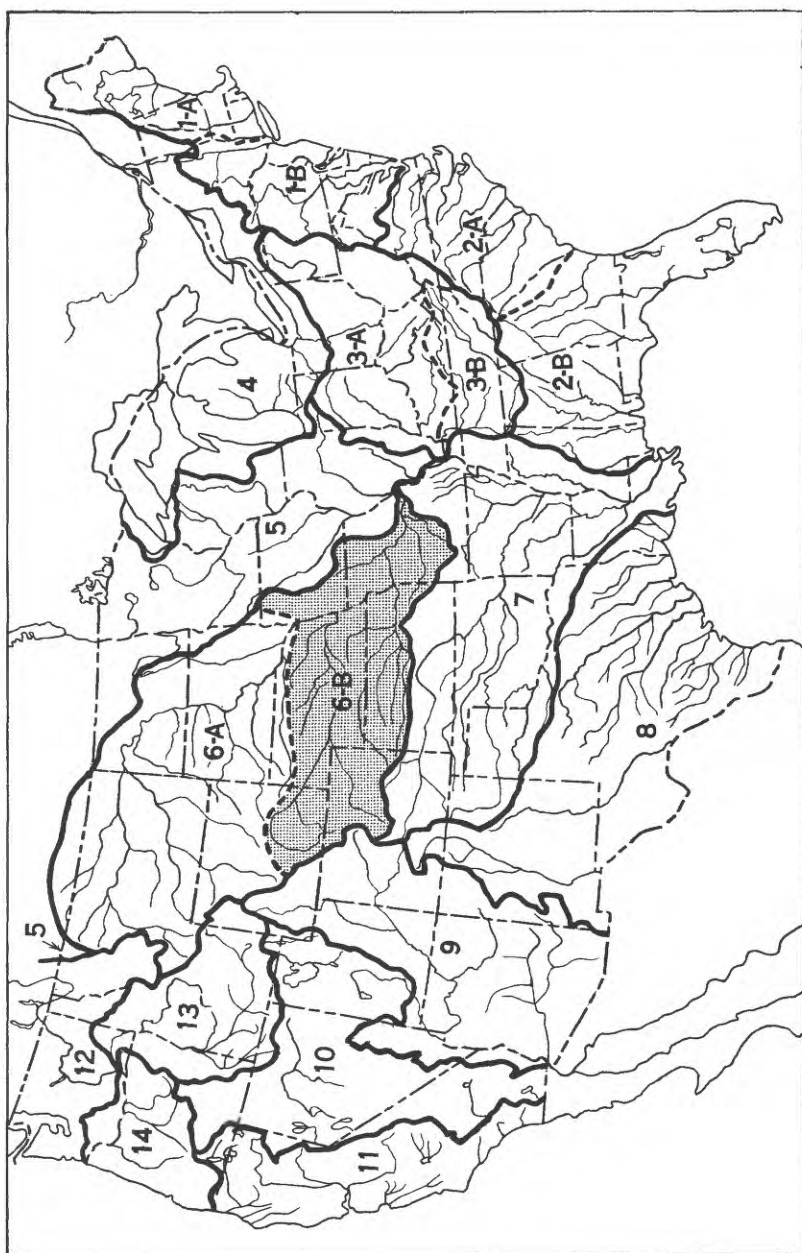


Figure 2.--Map of the United States showing areas covered by the 18 annual volumes on surface water supply. The area covered by this report is shaded.

7. Lower Mississippi River basin.
8. Western Gulf of Mexico basins.
9. Colorado River basin.
10. The Great Basin.
11. Pacific slope basins in California.
12. Pacific slope basins in Washington and upper Columbia River basin.
13. Snake River basin.
14. Pacific slope basins in Oregon and lower Columbia River basin.

Water-supply papers and other publications of the Geological Survey containing data on the water resources of the United States may be purchased or consulted as follows:

1. Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., who will, on application, furnish lists giving prices. A list of Geological Survey publications may also be obtained by applying to the Director, Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.
 2. Sets of the reports may be consulted in the libraries of the principal cities in the United States.
 3. Sets are available for consultation in the offices of the Water Resources Division of the Geological Survey. Addresses of the Offices in the area covered by this report are given on page 2.
- Early records of the flow of streams in the United States are published in the reports listed below. In many of these reports records for years earlier than those indicated have been included for some streams.

Streamflow data for the years 1884-1901, in reports of the Geological Survey
(A = Annual Report; B = Bulletin)

Report	Character of data	Year
10th A, pt. 2	Descriptive information only.	
11th A, pt. 2	Monthly discharge and descriptive information.....	1884 to September 1890.
12th A, pt. 2	do.....	1884 to June 30, 1891.
13th A, pt. 3	Monthly discharge and descriptive information.....	1884-92.
14th A, pt. 2	Monthly discharge.....	1888-93.
B 131.....	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1893-94.
16th A, pt. 2	Descriptive information only.	
B 140.....	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, ratings, and monthly discharge.	1895.
WSP 11.....	Gage heights.....	1896.
18th A, pt. 4	Descriptions, measurements, ratings, and monthly discharge.	1895-96.
WSP 15.....	Descriptions, measurements, and gage heights of streams east of the Mississippi River, and Missouri River and tributaries above Kansas River.	1897.
WSP 16.....	Descriptions, measurements, and gage heights of streams west of the Mississippi River, except Missouri River and tributaries above Kansas River.	1897.
19th A, pt. 4	Descriptions, measurements, ratings, and monthly discharge.	1897.
WSP 27.....	Measurements, ratings, and gage heights of streams east of the Mississippi River, and Missouri River and tributaries.	1898.
WSP 28.....	Measurements, ratings, and gage heights of streams west of the Mississippi River, except Missouri River and tributaries.	1898.
20th A, pt. 4	Monthly discharge.....	1898.
WSP 35 to 39.	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1899.
21st A, pt. 4	Monthly discharge.....	1899.
WSP 47 to 52.	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1900.
22d A, pt. 4.	Monthly discharge.....	1900.
WSP 65, 66...	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1901.
WSP 75.....	Monthly discharge.....	1901.

Reports on surface-water supply containing records from 1899 to date for drainage basins in this report are listed below. The data for any particular gaging station will, in general, be found in the reports covering the years during which the station was maintained. Before 1951, records for the Missouri River basin below Sioux City, Iowa, were included with those of the other rivers of the Missouri River basin.

Numbers of water-supply papers containing results of stream measurements in Missouri River basin below Sioux City, Iowa, 1899-1957

Year	WSP	Year	WSP	Year	WSP	Year	WSP	Year	WSP
1899	37	1912	326	1925	606	1937	826	1949	1146
1900	49,850	1913	358	1926	626	1938	856	1950	1176
1901	66,75	1914	386	1927	646	1939	876	1951	1210
1902	84	1915	406	1928	666	1940	896	1952	1240
1903	99	1916	436	1929	686	1941	926	1953	1280
1904	130,b131	1917	456	1930	701	1942	956	1954	1340
1905	172	1918	476	1931	716	1943	976	1955	1390
1906	208	1919-20	506	1932	731	1944	1006	1956	1440
1907-8	246	1921	526	1933	746	1945	1036	1957	1510
1909	266	1922	546	1934	761	1946	1056		
1910	286	1923	566	1935	786	1947	1086		
1911	306	1924	586	1936	806	1948	1116		

a Loup, Platte, and Elkhorn Rivers and tributaries below Platte River.
b Platte and Kansas Rivers.

